

CLAIMS

1. A method of inducing an adaptive immune response in a patient to a target antigen comprising administering to said patient a flagellin protein, or a peptide
5 fragment thereof, in an amount effective to induce said response.
2. A method according to claim 1 wherein the flagellin or peptide fragment thereof is capable of directly inducing the dendritic cell adaptive immune response.
- 10 3. A method according to claim 1 or claim 2 wherein dendritic cell maturation is increased.
4. A method according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the flagellin or peptide fragment thereof is administered via the mucosal route.
- 15 5. A method according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the flagellin or peptide fragment thereof is administered orally or intranasally.
6. A method according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the flagellin
20 protein includes at least one of the conserved regions of the N terminal sequence and the C terminal sequence of flagellin.
7. A method according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the flagellin protein includes at least one of the conserved regions of residues 1-190 and 354-494 of *S. typhimurium* as shown underlined in Figure 8 herein.
- 25 8. A method as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein the flagellin protein or peptide fragment and the target antigen are co-administered.
9. Use of a flagellin protein or peptide fragment thereof in the manufacture of a medicament for the induction of an adaptive immune response.

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10. Use as claimed in Claim 9 characterised in that the medicament is for inducing recruitment of immature dendritic cells in mucosal vaccination such as to induce an adaptive immune response.
- 5 11. Use as claimed in Claim 9 or Claim 10 above characterised in that the medicament is an adjuvant.
12. A flagellin protein or peptide fragment thereof for use in therapy characterised in that the protein or peptide fragment is truncated, mutated or has deletions therein
10 which allow it to retain its ability to induce the immune response.
13. A flagellin protein or peptide fragment as claimed Claim 12 characterised in that it retains the ability to bind to intestinal or epithelial cell flagellin receptors and retain immune signalling.
- 15 14. A flagellin protein or peptide fragment as claimed in Claim 12 or Claim 13 characterised in that the flagellin protein includes at least one of the conserved regions of residues 1-190 and 354-494 of S typhimurium as shown underlined in Figure 8 herein.
- 20 15. An adjuvant composition comprising a flagellin protein or peptide fragment thereof as claimed in any one of Claims 12 to 14 together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, excipient or diluent, or in sterile pyrogen free form.
16. A vaccine composition comprising an adjuvant composition as claimed in
25 claim 15 and a target antigen.